

# SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

## OVERVIEW

Located amid the lakes and mountains of central New Hampshire, Holderness School is a traditional co-ed independent secondary school, serving grades 9-12. Holderness strives to create a balance in fostering the resources of the mind, body, and spirit: the mind through a challenging college preparatory curriculum, the body through outdoor activities and required interscholastic athletics, and the spirit through school and community service, ongoing anti-racism work, and affiliation with the Episcopal Church. Holderness remains, by choice, a small school where everyone plays an important role, and where students and faculty maintain close personal relationships.

### HOLDERNESS AT A GLANCE

- **Enrollment:** 304 students
- **Grades:** 9-12
- **Boarding/Day Distribution:** 264 boarding/40 day
- **Geographic Distribution:** Students hail from 29 states and 13 countries, including Afghanistan, Bermuda, Canada, China, Hungary, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Viet Nam.
- **Teaching Faculty:** 53
- **Student/Faculty Ratio:** 6:1
- **Average Class Size:** 10
- **Faculty Average Years of Experience:** 15
- **Faculty Tenure at Holderness >10 years:** 44%
- **Faculty Holding Advanced Degrees:** 65%

## ACADEMIC STATEMENT

At Holderness School, we are guided by an academic mission which seeks to develop students who:

- Can articulate and understand *how* they learn as well as what they learn
- Find a sustaining fuel in learning and not simply in earning good grades
- Recognize that effective learning happens both inside and outside the classroom
- Embrace the premise that all learning starts with asking good questions
- Exhibit a growth mindset in all things
- Are defined by curiosity, resilience, compassion and a sense of humor
- Actively work to build an equitable and inclusive culture in their community

## ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

**2020-2021 Academic Year:** Students received in-person instruction from the start of the school year through Thanksgiving break, then completed the final two weeks of the semester via distance learning. Instruction was in-person throughout the spring semester. Courses ran Monday-Friday with new healthiness, social justice, service, and other grade-specific programming on Saturdays. Any students who were not able to join us for in-person instruction were accommodated with a similar and equally rigorous distance learning program, enhanced by improved technology infrastructure across campus. **There was no change to our grading system.**

**Fall 2021-Present:** We have been able to return to our regular pre-Covid schedule with full in-person instruction, family style meals, and chapels.

**There continues to be no change to our grading system.**

## JOB PROGRAM AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students at Holderness play an active role in the daily management of the school. In a unique balloting system, student leaders are elected by all members of the community (including adults) on the basis of dependability, initiative, fairness, and empathy. Every student at Holderness participates daily in the Job Program, serving in myriad support capacities and learning important lessons of individual responsibility.

## COLLEGE OFFICE CONTACTS

**John McVeigh**, *Head of School*

**Kelsey Berry**, *Director of College Counseling* (603)779-5310

**Bruce Barton**, *Senior Associate Director of College Counseling* (603)779-5311

**Sarah Barton**, *Associate Director of College Counseling* (603)779-5302

**Pam Mulcahy**, *Associate Director of College Counseling* (603)779-5332

**Jordan Graham**, *Dean of Academic Affairs* (603)779-5369

**Stephen Uhlman**, *Assistant to the Director of College Counseling* (603)779-5207

## MAILING ADDRESS

**Holderness School**  
PO Box 1879  
Plymouth, NH 03264

## PHYSICAL ADDRESS

**Holderness School**  
33 Chapel Lane  
Holderness, NH 03245

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

(603)536-1257  
www.holderness.org

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Each March, the school begins its two-week period of Special Programs. Students, grouped by graduating class, engage in activities that address lessons of mind, body, and spirit through hands-on experience:

- **PROJECT OUTREACH:** Leadership begins by knowing how to serve others, so in March, the ninth graders participate in community service projects around the local community including preparing meals at the food bank, fundraising for Special Olympics, and volunteering at non-profits.
- **ARTWARD BOUND:** Artward Bound is a nationally-recognized program during which we invite working artists from all over the country to work closely with and perform alongside our tenth-grade students and faculty.
- **OUT BACK:** In March, the junior class disperses into the White Mountains for a ten-day hike, three days of which are spent alone. Generations of Holderness students have discovered endurance, resilience, and self-confidence through Out Back.
- **SENIOR CAPSTONE:** In this year-long course, students practice research and presentation skills with guidance from a class advisor and mentoring from adults with expertise within the students' field of interest. In March, they embark on self-designed, hands-on learning opportunities and in May present their theses to the school community.

## CURRICULUM

All courses are college preparatory, seeking to prepare students for success at the highest levels in college. Honors courses are offered in Chemistry, Physics, Algebra 2, and Precalculus. Advanced Precalculus is a unique course that includes topics from the start of calculus to prepare students to go directly into BC Calculus.

- Please note 3 graduation requirements impactful to students' course selection. In addition to requirements in English, Math, Science, History and Foreign Languages, Holderness students are required to take:
  - 2 semesters of art
  - 1 semester of a Theology and Religious study course. This could be World Religions or a course cross-listed within the English or History departments. At times this requirement makes it difficult for a student to enroll in AP English their senior year.
  - 2 semesters, in the senior year of our signature Senior Capstone course (see Special Programs above).
- The Capstone requirement means students pursuing 4 years in the core curriculum will take 6 courses in a 7 block schedule during their senior year. Full-time course enrollment for a Holderness student is 5 courses.
  - While students get to pursue a topic of interest in their capstone research, it also at times limits students' ability to both pursue 4 years in the core disciplines and "double up" in a discipline of interest as our school practice limits students from taking 7 courses.
  - To read more about our graduation requirements by department please visit page 7 of our curriculum guide.

## GPA AND CLASS RANK

Holderness does not report GPA on transcripts or rank its students.

## AP COURSES (19) INCLUDE:

- Art and Design (2D, 3D, and Drawing)
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC\*
- Comparative Government and Politics\*
- Computer Science
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition\*
- Environmental Science
- French Language and Culture
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism\*
- Physics C: Mechanics
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Spanish Literature & Culture\*
- Statistics
- United States Government and Politics
- US/European History: Advanced History of the West

### NOTES:

*AP course enrollment is dependent upon teacher recommendation and the student's prior performance in pre-requisites.*

*Some AP Courses require an advanced course as a prerequisite, we label these "intensives" on the Common Application, we have noted them here with an \*.*

*Holderness School policy requires all students to take the AP exam in lieu of a final exam for their course. If students fail to take the exam, they will lose the AP designation from their transcript and contact their enrolled college to notify them of a course change.*

*Advanced History of the West is an innovative two-year course, typically taken in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. It combines the curricula of AP U.S. History and AP European History into an Atlantic history course. Students take both AP exams at the end of the two-year progression.*

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT RESULTS: ALL STUDENTS, 2021-23

COURSE	# TAKING EXAM	% SCORING 3+
2-D Art and Design	3	100%
Biology	33	70%
Calculus AB	59	39%
Calculus BC	45	62%
Chemistry	2	0%
Comparative Government	34	88%
Computer Science A	24	63%
Drawing	2	100%
English Language	154	58%
English Literature	66	82%
Environmental Science	107	39%
European History	104	51%
French Language and Culture	13	85%
German Language and Culture	1	100%
Human Geography	1	100%
Macroeconomics	68	35%
Microeconomics	34	38%
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	16	81%
Physics C: Mechanics	33	76%
Psychology	2	100%
Spanish Language	20	60%
Spanish Literature	5	80%
Statistics	29	90%
US History	70	71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>59%</b>

## COLLEGE DESTINATIONS, CLASSES OF 2020-23

Adrian College	Emmanuel College	Regis College
American University	<b>Endicott College</b>	University of Rhode Island
The American University of Paris	Fairfield University	University of Richmond
Babson College	Flagler College	Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Bard College	University of Florida	Saint Michael's College
Bates College	Fordham University	Skidmore College
Bentley University	Gettysburg College	Smith College
Boston College	Gordon College	University of South Carolina
Boston University	Hamilton College	University of Southern California
Bowdoin College	Harvey Mudd College	Southern Methodist University
Brandeis University	Hobart William Smith Colleges	St Bonaventure University
Brown University	College of the Holy Cross	<b>St. Lawrence University</b>
Bryant University	CUNY Hunter College	The College of Saint Scholastica
Bryn Mawr College	Johns Hopkins University	Stanford University
<b>Bucknell University</b>	Johnson & Wales University - Providence	Stockholm School of Economics
University of California - Davis	University of Kansas	Stonehill College
University of California - Irvine	Keene State College	Suffolk University
University of California - Los Angeles	Lehigh University	Swarthmore College
University of California - San Diego	Loyola University New Orleans	<b>Syracuse University</b>
University of California - Santa Barbara	Marist College	Texas Christian University
Case Western Reserve University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	The University of Texas at Austin
Castleton University	<b>University of Massachusetts - Amherst</b>	Trinity College
Clark University	University of Massachusetts - Lowell	Tufts University
Clarkson University	McGill University	Tulane University
Clemson University	Merrimack College	United States Naval Academy
<b>Colby College</b>	University of Michigan	University of Utah
<b>University of Colorado Boulder</b>	Middlebury College	Vanderbilt University
<b>Colorado College</b>	Montana State University	Vassar College
Colorado School of Mines	University of New England	<b>University of Vermont</b>
Connecticut College	<b>University of New Hampshire</b>	Villanova University
Cornell University	<b>New York University</b>	Virginia Military Institute
Dartmouth College	Northeastern University	University of Washington
University of Delaware	Northwestern University	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Denison University	Paul Smith's College	Westminster College
<b>University of Denver</b>	Pepperdine University	Wheaton College
Dickinson College	University of Pittsburgh	Whitman College
Elon University	Plymouth State University	William & Mary
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach	Providence College	Williams College
	Reed College	<b>University of Wisconsin</b>

*Bold denotes colleges where 5 or more alumni are current students*



# HOLDERNESS

HOLDERNESS SCHOOL

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